

Appl. No. 09/910,141
Amtd. Dated September 16, 2003
Reply to Final Office Action of June 16, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11, 13 and 14 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended and consideration is respectfully requested.

Restriction requirement:

The Examiner requires cancellation of the non-elected subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 1 to cancel the non-elected subject matter in accordance with the election (Group III) in the Reponse to Restriction Requirement dated August 30, 2002.

Claim Rejections under 35 §102(b):

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Sugihara et al. (US Pat. No. 4,937,246). Applicants have amended claim 1 to obviate the §102(b) rejection. Thus, claims 1-6, as amended, are not anticipated by Sugihara et al. and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections:

Claims 7-11 and 13-14 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 1) but would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms. Applicants have amended claim 1 to obviate the §102(b) rejection, and Claims 7-11 and 13-14 are no longer dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants also wish to point out that Claim 10 has also been amended to correct a typographical error. Accordingly, allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion:

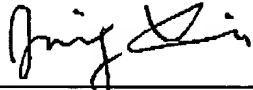
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees, including any extension and/or excess claim fees, any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to Goodwin Procter LLP Deposit Account No. 06-0923.

Respectfully submitted for Applicants,



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Dated: September 16, 2003

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